

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/987,487

Examiner

Shawki S. Ismail

Applicant(s)

KATAYAMA ET AL.

Art Unit

2155

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendments received on May 29, 2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-7, 9-17, 19-27, 29-37, and 39-40 re-numbered 1-36.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date 5/29/2007
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 7/2/2007
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

SALEH NAJJAR
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

EXAMINERS AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and /or additions by unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such amendment, it must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Frank Delucia (Reg. No. 42,476) on June 29, 2007.

3. The application has been amended as follows:

--Title—replace previous title with: Remote Site Managing System for Centrally Managing Computers and Peripheral Devices.

Claims 1, 8-11, 18-21, 28-31, and 38-40 have been replaced with the following amended claims 1, 8-11, 18-21, 28-31, and 38-40.

Claim 1 (currently amended): An information processing apparatus which is connected to a first local managing apparatus which diagnoses an apparatus having a first-type function and a second local managing apparatus which diagnoses an apparatus having a second-type function that is different from the first-type function, comprising: judging means which judge, based on information selected by a user, whether a trouble which has occurred in a predetermined apparatus that has been

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reported to said information processing apparatus is a trouble related to the apparatus having the first-type function or a trouble related to the apparatus having the second-type function;

determination means which determine that the first local managing apparatus shall diagnose the predetermined apparatus if the trouble which has occurred in the predetermined apparatus is judged to be a trouble related to the apparatus having the first-type function, and determine that the second local managing apparatus shall diagnose the predetermined apparatus if the trouble which has occurred in the predetermined apparatus is judged to be a trouble related to the apparatus having the second -type function, based on the judgment provided by said judging means, and said determining means determining that the first and second local managing apparatuses shall both diagnose the predetermined apparatus if said judging means cannot judge as to whether the trouble which has occurred in the predetermined apparatus is a trouble related to the apparatus having the first-type function or to the apparatus having the second-type function; ~~and~~

diagnosis control means which causes one of the first local managing apparatus and the second local managing apparatus, or both the first and second local managing apparatuses, to perform diagnosis, based on a determination provided by said determination means: and

wherein the apparatus of the first type is a peripheral device, and the apparatus of the second type is a computer device.

Claim 8. (cancelled).

Claim 9. (previously presented): An information processing apparatus according to Claim 8 1, wherein the apparatus of the first type is at least one of a printer, a photocopier, or a scanner.

Claim 10. (previously presented): An information processing apparatus according to Claim 8 1, wherein the apparatus of the second type is at least one of a personal computer, a server computer, or a network device.

Claim 11. (currently amended): A managing program which is executed on an information processing apparatus which is connected to a first local managing apparatus which diagnoses equipment having a first-type function and a second local managing apparatus which diagnoses equipment having a second-type function that is different from the first-type function, said program causing a computer to execute the following steps: a judging step, for judging, based on information selected by a user, whether a trouble which has occurred in a predetermined apparatus that has been reported to the information processing apparatus is a trouble related to the apparatus having the first-type function or a trouble related to the apparatus having the second-type function;

a determination step, for determining as to that the first local managing apparatus shall diagnose the predetermined apparatus if the trouble which has occurred in the

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predetermined apparatus is judged to be a trouble related to the apparatus having the first-type function, and for determining that the second local managing apparatus shall diagnose the predetermined apparatus if the trouble which has occurred in the predetermined apparatus is judged to be a trouble related to the apparatus having the second-type function, based on a judgment provided in said judging step, and for determining that the first and second local managing apparatuses shall both diagnose the predetermined apparatus if in said judging step it is not possible to judge as to whether the trouble which has occurred in the predetermined apparatus is a trouble related to the apparatus having the first-type function or to the apparatus having the second-type function; and

a diagnosis control step, execution of which causes one or the other of the first local managing apparatus and the second local managing apparatus, or both the first and second local managing apparatuses, to perform diagnosis, based on a determination obtained in said determination step; and

wherein the equipment of the first type is a peripheral device, and the equipment of the second type is a computer device.

Claim 18. (cancelled).

Claim 19. (currently amended): An equipment managing program according to Claim ~~48~~ 11, wherein the equipment of the first type is at least one of a printer, a photocopier, or a scanner.

Claim 20. (currently amended): An equipment managing program according to Claim 48 11, wherein the equipment of the second type is at least one of a personal computer, a server computer, or a network device.

Claim 21. (currently amended): A computer-readable recording medium storing an equipment managing program which is executed on an information processing apparatus which is connected to a first local managing apparatus which diagnoses equipment having a first-type function and a second local managing apparatus which diagnoses equipment having a second-type function that is different from the first-type function, said equipment managing program causing a computer to execute the following steps: a judging step, for judging, based on information selected by a user, whether a trouble which has occurred in a predetermined apparatus that has been reported to the information processing apparatus is a trouble related to the apparatus having the first-type function or a trouble related to the apparatus having the second-type function;

a determination step, for determining as to that the first local managing apparatus shall diagnose the predetermined apparatus if the trouble which has occurred in the predetermined apparatus is judged to be a trouble related to the apparatus having the first-type function, and for determining that the second local managing apparatus shall diagnose the predetermined apparatus if the trouble which has occurred in the predetermined apparatus is judged to be a trouble related to the apparatus having the

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second-type function, based on a judgment provided in said judging step, and for determining that the first and second local managing apparatuses shall both diagnose the predetermined apparatus if in said judging step it is not possible to judge as to whether the trouble which has occurred in the predetermined apparatus is a trouble related to the apparatus having the first-type function or to the apparatus having the second-type function; and

a diagnosis control step, execution of which causes one or the other of the first local managing apparatus and the second local managing apparatus, or both the first and second local managing apparatuses, to perform diagnosis, based on a determination obtained in said determination step; and

wherein the equipment of the first type is a peripheral device, and the equipment of the second type is a computer device.

Claim 28. (cancelled).

Claim 29. (currently amended): A recording medium according to Claim ~~28~~ 21 , wherein the equipment of the first type is at least one of a printer, a photocopier, or a scanner.

Claim 30. (previously presented): A recording medium according to Claim ~~28~~ 21 , wherein the equipment of the second type is at least one of a personal computer, a server computer, or a network device.

Claim 31. (currently amended): An equipment managing method which is executed on a system configured of a first local managing apparatus which is connected to a first local managing apparatus which diagnoses equipment having a first-type function and a second local managing apparatus which diagnoses equipment having a second-type function that is different from the first-type function, said method comprising: a judging step, for judging, based on information selected by a user, whether a trouble which has occurred in a predetermined apparatus that has been reported to the information processing apparatus is a trouble related to the apparatus having the first-type function or a trouble related to the apparatus having the second-type function;

a determination step, for determining as to that the first local managing apparatus shall diagnose the predetermined apparatus if the trouble which has occurred in the predetermined apparatus is judged to be a trouble related to the apparatus having the first-type function, and for determining that the second local managing apparatus shall diagnose the predetermined apparatus if the trouble which has occurred in the predetermined apparatus is judged to be a trouble related to the apparatus having the second-type function, based on a judgment provided in said judging step, and for determining that the first and second local managing apparatuses shall both diagnose the predetermined apparatus if in said judging step it is not possible to judge as to whether the trouble which has occurred in the predetermined apparatus is a trouble

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related to the apparatus having the first-type function or to the apparatus having the second-type function; ~~and~~

a diagnosis control step, execution of which causes one or the other of the first local managing apparatus and the second local managing apparatus, or both the first and second local managing apparatuses, to perform diagnosis, based on a determination obtained in said determination step; and

wherein the equipment of the first type is a peripheral device, and the equipment of the second type is a computer device.

Claim 38. (cancelled).

Claim 39. (currently amended): An equipment managing method according to Claim 38 31, wherein the equipment of the first type is at least one of a printer, a photocopier, or a scanner.

Claim 40. (currently amended): An equipment managing method according to Claim 38 31, wherein the equipment of the second type is at least one of a personal computer, a server computer, or a network device.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

4. The following is an Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance:

Claims 1-7, 9-17, 19-27, 29-37, and 39-40 are allowable over the prior art of record.

The examiner has found that the prior art of record does not teach or suggest or render obvious a managing system for centrally managing computers and peripheral devices. Specifically, that a first local managing apparatus diagnoses a predetermined apparatus if a trouble which has occurred in a predetermined apparatus is judged to be a trouble related to an apparatus having the first-type function, a second local managing apparatus diagnoses a predetermined apparatus if the trouble which has occurred in a predetermined apparatus is judged to be a trouble related to a apparatus having a second-type function, and both the first and second local managing apparatuses diagnose the predetermined apparatus if the judging means cannot judge whether the trouble which has occurred in the predetermined apparatus is a trouble related to the apparatus having the first-type function or second-type function, as set forth in the specification and recited in the independent claims 1, 11, 21, and 31.

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submission should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shawki S Ismail whose telephone number is 571-272-3985. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30 - 5:00.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Saleh Najjar can be reached on 571-272-4006. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Shawki Ismail
Patent Examiner
July 2, 2007



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SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER